

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

The text of the claims at issue as follows:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method of using a combination catheter having a catheter tube and an inner medical element, said combination catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, the method comprising:

disposing a catheter tube in a human body, said catheter tube having a distal end portion fixed in a first curve such that the distal end portion of the catheter tube defines a first plane;

disposing an inner medical element in the catheter tube, said inner medical element having a distal end;

forming the combination catheter into a shape in which the distal end of the combination catheter is disposed substantially out of the first plane for a period of time sufficient to permit medical use of at least one of the catheter tube or the inner medical element.

20. (previously presented) The method of using a combination catheter as set forth in claim 19 further including the step of positioning the combination catheter in a desired position, and using the combination catheter in a medical procedure while the distal end of the combination catheter is disposed substantially out of the first plane.

21. (previously presented) The method of using a combination catheter as set forth in claim 20 further including the step of reforming the distal end of the combination catheter into a substantially different shape.

22. (previously presented) The method of using a combination catheter as set forth in claim 21 further including the step of using the combination catheter in a medical procedure while the distal end of the combination catheter is in the reformed shape.

23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 19 further including proximally fixing the distal end of the combination catheter substantially out of the first plane.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 19 further including proximally fixing the inner medical element against translation and rotation with respect to the catheter tube.

27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The method of using a combination catheter having a catheter tube and an inner medical element, said combination catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, the method comprising:

disposing a catheter tube in a human body, said catheter tube having a distal end portion fixed in a first curve such that the distal end portion of the catheter tube defines a first plane;

disposing an inner medical element in the catheter tube, said inner medical element having a distal end;

forming the combination catheter into a shape in which the distal end of the combination catheter is disposed substantially out of the first plane for a period of time sufficient to permit medical use of at least one of the catheter tube or the inner medical element; and

proximally fixing the inner medical element against translation and rotation with respect to the catheter tube.

29. (previously presented) The method of using a combination catheter having a catheter tube and an inner medical element, said combination catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, the method comprising:

disposing a catheter tube in a human body, said catheter tube having a distal end portion fixed in a first curve such that the distal end portion of the catheter tube defines a first plane;

disposing an inner medical element in the catheter tube, said inner medical element having a distal end;

forming the combination catheter into a first shape in which the distal end of the combination catheter is disposed substantially out of the first plane for a period of time sufficient to permit medical use of at least one of the catheter tube or the inner medical element;

proximally fixing the inner medical element against translation and rotation with respect to the catheter tube while the distal end of the combination catheter is disposed substantially out of the first plane;

forming the combination catheter into a second shape, different from the first shape, in which the distal end of the combination catheter is disposed substantially out of the first plane for a period of time sufficient to permit medical use of at least one of the catheter tube or the inner medical element;

proximally fixing the inner medical element against translation and rotation with respect to the catheter tube while the distal end of the combination catheter is disposed in the second shape.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the forming step includes rotating the inner medical element with respect to the catheter tube.

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)